

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /096 W

----- 053799

P R 141111 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6550

INFO USINT CAIRO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR SU

SUBJECT: PRESS STORIES ON KHARTOUM TRIAL

REF: STATE 91152

1. PRIOR RECEIPT REFTEL, EMB NOTED AP STORY DATELINED CAIRO MAY 12 AND CARRIED IN BEIRUT DAILY STAR WHICH QUOTES GOS MININFO OMER HAJ MUSA (IN TELEPHONE INTERVIEW) AS SAYING THAT TRIAL DATE FOR BSO DEFENDANTS EXPECTED BE ANNOUNCED WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. ARTICLE (WHICH ALSO DISCUSSES GOS RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS) CONCLUDES BY SAYING " OBSERVERS PREDICT BSO TRIAL WILL GET UNDERWAY A WEEK OR TWO AFTER THE DATE IS ANNOUNCED." ON BASIS THAT ARTICLE, CHARGE ALREADY SEEKING APPOINTMENT OMER HAJ MUSA FOR CLARIFICATION.

2. WE ALSO NOTE FBIS PUERTO RICO REPORT WITH AFP STORY (DAVID DAURE) DATELINED KHARTOUM WHICH APPARENTLY TAKES MUCH SAME LINE AS NYTIME STORY INDICATED REFTEL. GROUP EUROPEAN AND OTHER JOURNALISTS WERE IN KHARTOUM RECENTLY AND SUBMITTED SERIES WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO PRES NIMAIRI INCLUDING ONE ON TRIAL PROSPECTS. WE UNDERSTAND NIMAIRI REPLIED MERELY THAT INVESTIGATION WAS PROCEEDING IN ACCORDANCE SUDANESE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES. WE SUSPECT THIS SPATE OF STORIES IS OUTGROWTH

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THAT VISIT AND IS BASED ON THEIR CONTACTS WITH MEMBERS DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

3. RE ASSIGNMENT NEW AMBASSADOR, EMB POSITION IN RESPONSE NUMEROUS QUERIES HAS BEEN THAT THERE IS NO CURRENT REASON DOUBT USG WILL NAME NEW AMBASSADOR IN DUE COURSE, BUT PROCESS TAKES TIME AS INDICATED BY SIX MONTH PERIOD BETWEEN RESUMPTION RELATIONS JULY 72 AND ARRIVAL AMB. NOEL IN DECEMBER.

4. STORIES HAVE NOT SO FAR APPEARED IN SUDANESE PRESS.

5. EMB INFORMED FONOFFICE (AMERICA DESK) CONFLICTING PRESS ACCOUNTS AND UNDERSEC OBEID HAS REQUESTED SEE CHARGE TUESDAY A. M. KHARTOUM TIME. FRITTS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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